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PATENT
7393/84061

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: SIPS et al. Confirmation: 8981
Serial No.: 10/502,082 Art Unit: 1794
Filed: July 22, 2004 Examiner: V. Stuli
For: STARCH N-ALKENYL SUCCINATE AS TEXTURIZING
AGENT FOR UHT TREATED PRODUCTS

RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENT FOR RESTRICTION

Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

April 8, 2008

Sir:

The following is responsive to the Office Action mailed March 18, 2008, in requiring the election of either Group I, claims 1-7, 16-18, and 21, drawn to a UHT-treated product comprising a stabilized starch n-alkenyl succinate, or Group II, claims 8-11, 13-15, 19, and 20, drawn to a process for preparing UHT-treated product comprising a stabilized starch n-alkenyl succinate and to a process for texturizing a UHT-treated product by incorporating therein a stabilized starch n-alkenyl succinate.

Applicants submit that all claims can and should be examined in a single application. Indeed, the International Preliminary Examination Report discloses that WIPO found novelty, inventive step, and industrial applicability for all of claims 1-9. Copies of the International Preliminary Examination Report and International Search Report were included with the Information Disclosure Statement submitted with the present application, thereby apprising the Examiner of the art cited in the corresponding international application.

While the claims in the present application are drafted in a format more conventional for the United States, they do find a touchstone in claims 1-9 of the PCT application.